

REMARKS

Claims 29, 30, 34-39 and 74-84 are pending. Claims 31-33, 41-43 and 56-58 have been withdrawn. By this Response, claims 29, 30, 39 and 74 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 29, 30 and 34-38 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yuuichi (JP 08104246) and claims 39 and 74-84 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuuichi in view of applicant's admitted prior art. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 29 and 39 each recite, *inter alia*, a valve body, including a plurality of valve body lands, a valve spool, fitting into said valve body...said valve spool including a plurality of valve spool lands, wherein said valve body includes pairs of chamfers which are so formed that each of the valve body lands has only one chamfer.

As recited in independent claims 29 and 39, it is the valve body lands which include the chamfers. Each of the lands in the valve body has one chamfer.

In contrast, Yuuichi provides a power steering device including a rotary valve member and sleeve valve member each having various land portions. In various embodiments of Yuuichi, the land portions on each of the rotary valve and sleeve valve members are arranged such that one or more of the land portions include a chamfer on the corner of the land. However, nowhere in

Yuuichi does it teach that each land of the sleeve valve member, which corresponds to applicants claimed valve body, has one chamfer.

The Office Action alleges that the embodiments of Figs. 8 and 9 of Yuuchi teach the above claimed features recited in independent claims 29 and 39.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Contrary to the presently claimed invention, Fig. 8 of Yuuchi, teaches chamfering portions provided on both the rotary valve member 31 and sleeve valve member 33. Further, chamfering portions on the sleeve valve member 33 are not provided on each of the lands but only on the lands adjacent to the land containing the feeding path 42.

Also, the embodiment of Fig. 9 only teaches chamfers being positioned on the lands of the rotary valve member 31 and not on the sleeve valve portion 33. See paragraphs 38 and 39.

Further, the other embodiments of Yuuchi also fail to teach the claimed features. Specifically, the embodiments associated with Figs. 3 and 4 include multiple chamfers on some lands of the sleeve valve member while other lands do not include chamfers. The embodiment of Fig. 7 teaches providing chamfers on the valve sleeve lands adjacent to the feeding path 42 while other lands of the valve sleeve member do not include chamfers.

Further, applicants admitted prior art fails to remedy the deficiencies associated with Yuuchi. Therefore, in view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that Yuuchi alone or in combination with applicant's

admitted prior art fail to teach each and every feature of the claims as required. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion


For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 29, 30, 34-39 and 74-84 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 09/582,870

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Michael R. Cammarata, #39,491

MRC/CJB:cb
1560-0345P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s)